Files regarding financial irregularities

1562. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 90 documents and files pertaining to financial irregularities involving several crores of rupees against Brig. V.P. Singh, which the CBI is probing, were destroyed by Senior Military Officer by getting the office opened on an public holiday on the pretext of working on the accounts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this major Security breach took place in the Military Farms Headquarter at Army Headquarter on the 28th and 29th June, 2003, and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken against the officials found involved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) As per Army records, no files pertaining to the CBI investigation of the cases against Brig. V.P. Singh (Retd.) have been destroyed.

To ascertain the facts a Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the incident. The main terms of reference of the Court of Inquiry are to investigate the reported breach of security that might have occurred in the Military Farm Directorate Office on 28th June and 29th June 2003 and the reported destruction of files. The Court has also been directed to investigate any other related matter which comes up during the conduct of inquiry.

Refurbishing of life expired missiles

1563. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has a massive stockpile of missiles accumulated over the last 25 years which are now becoming life expired;

(b) whether Bharat Dynamics Ltd., India's public sector missile manufacturing unit based at Hyderabad will be the nodel agency to refurbish these missiles and upgrade them at 20 per cent of the cost of new ones; and

(c) if so, what is the reliability of this refurbishing and upgrading plan to ensure that these missiles will continue to be efficient and effective operationally?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Missiles have a fixed life which, depending on various parameters, is extended, from time to time, in consultation with Directorate General of Quality Assuarance.

(b) and (c) M/s Bharat Dynamic Limited (BDL) has been nominated by the Department of Defence Production and Supplies as the Nodal Agency to carry out life extension/refurbishment of missiles held by the Defence Forces, at a cost to be negotiated. It will be the contractual liability of BDL to ensure reliability of this refurbishment and upgradation.

Infiltration from Bangladesh

1564. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the Statement given at Chandigarh on 27.9.2003 confirming infiltration from Bangladesh and state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the matter of infiltration with Bangladesh authorities to take effective measures to stop infiltration;

(b) whether Government have attributed this infiltration into India a total failure of paramilitary forces who indulge in malpractices which encourage them in their clandestine business without interruptions; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Government has been holding regular discussions at diplomatic and political level with the Government of Bangladesh for taking necessary steps to control all kinds of illegal cross border movement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

MIG Repairs

1565. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor quality of repairs and upgrades carried out by non-Russian Companies are the major causes for MIG crashes in the country: